

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN:CB

APPROVED BY EA:WHGLESTEEN, JR.

S/S. JLHOGANSON

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P 020034Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 164431

STADIS//////////

EXDIS - FOR AMB ONLY FM GLEYTEEN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS

1. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT PROMPTED ITS MOST RECENT ACTIONS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT A GRADUAL INCREMENT IN PRC MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT HAS TAKEN PLACE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS REFLECTING A PRC REVERSAL OF ITS LONG-STANDING SUFFERANCE OF ROC CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE STRAIT. OVER THE LONGER RUN, A PERSISTING AND PERHAPS BOLDER PATTERN OF SUCH PRC BEHAVIOR COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THE POSSIBILITY THE ROC MIGHT PROVOKE AN INCIDENT OR OTHERWISE ACT TO BUILD TENSIONS IN THE AREA IN THE HOPE OF AROUSING AMERICAN SYMPATHY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

2. TO DATE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH ROC INTENTION AND DESPITE OCCASIONAL SIGNS OF FRUSTRATION AND BOMBAST, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM AVAILABLE INFORMATION THAT ROC IS REACTING CAUTIOUSLY AND RESPONSIBLY. NEVERTHELESS, APART FROM YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MONITOR AND REPORT
SECRET

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THE SITUATION, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MAY HAVE. KISSINGER

SECRET

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